



Accreditation Engagement Review

July 01, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School

Institution #260070

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Accreditation Is Continuous Improvement

Cognia defines continuous improvement as "an embedded behavior rooted in an institution's culture that constantly focuses on conditions, processes, and practices to improve teaching and learning." Accreditation is a continuous improvement process that helps an institution improve teaching and learning. Using Cognia's Performance Standards, the institution examines its current effectiveness as well as its capacity and capability to achieve its vision and goals for the future.

Cognia believes all institutions can improve no matter how well they are currently performing. In the same manner that educators are expected to understand the unique needs of every learner and tailor the education experience to drive student success, every institution must be empowered

to map out and embrace their unique improvement journey. Cognia expects institutions to use the results and analyses of data from diverse sources to select and implement actions that drive improvement in education quality and student performance. Cognia recognizes that each institution's improvement journey is unique and that we can serve you best by providing key findings specific to your institution.

Around the turn of the 21st century, accreditation transformed its focus and process from a ten-year evaluation focused on the accomplishments of an institution's past decade to a forward-focused process examining what an institution is striving to accomplish in the next five years. Modern accreditation examines the current and future

capabilities and capacities of an institution in the context of its mission, purpose and direction. The Standards for Accreditation define how a good institution behaves and provides the criteria to focus improvement efforts that will lead to growing learners, teachers, and leaders.

In reality, modern accreditation is a continuous improvement process. At least every six years, the institution formally engages the Standards for Accreditation to reflect and examine its progress toward its desired future as expressed through its mission, purpose, and strategic direction.

Cognia's purpose-driven, strategic process is the most widely used continuous improvement process in the world.

Cognia Performance Accreditation and the Engagement Review

This report contains the findings of the Engagement Review. The findings of the report are organized in five sections: Assurances, Rating of Analyses, Cognia Performance Standards, Insights from the Review, and a Summary of Findings that includes Noteworthy Practices and Areas for Improvement.

Accreditation is pivotal to leveraging education quality and continuous improvement. Using a set of rigorous research-based standards, the accreditation process examines the whole institution—the program, the cultural context, and the community of stakeholders—to determine how

well the parts work together to meet the needs of learners. Through the Cognia Accreditation Process, highly skilled and trained evaluators gather first-hand evidence and information pertinent to evaluating an institution's performance against research-based Cognia Performance Standards. Using these standards, evaluators assess the quality of the learning environment to gain valuable insights and target improvements in teaching and learning as well as the operation of the institution.

To build a comprehensive evaluation of your institution, our experts gain a broad understanding of institution

quality through a review of documented evidence, discussions with leadership, and community feedback. Using the standards as a framework, the report provides valuable guidance to help focus your institution's improvement journey.



Assurances

Assurances are requirements that accredited institutions must meet. The assurance statements are based on the type of institution, and the responses are confirmed by the Accreditation Engagement Review. Institutions are expected to meet all assurances and are expected to correct any deficiencies in unmet assurances.

#	ASSURANCES	YES/NO
1.	The institution has read, understands, and complies with the Cognia Accreditation and Certification Policies and Procedures.	☑ Yes
2.	The institution complies with all applicable governmental laws or regulations.	☑ Yes
3.	The institution adheres to ethical marketing and communication practices to transparently disclose current and accurate information to the public.	☑ Yes
4.	The governing authority adheres to written policies that govern its conduct, decision making, ethics, and authority; and engages in training aligned to its roles and responsibilities.	☑ Yes
5.	The institution annually submits all financial transactions for an annual audit conducted by an accounting authority external to the institution.	☑ Yes
6.	The institution annually reviews and implements written management plans for security, crisis, safety and health for onsite and virtual environments that includes expectations, communications protocols, and training for students, staff and stakeholders.	☑ Yes
7.	The institution participates in required training related to accreditation or certification by timeframes prescribed by Cognia.	☑ Yes



Evaluations of Institution Analyses

Cognia expects institutions to use a systematic process to collect data and information using quality instruments and then analyze and synthesize that information to arrive at findings. From the findings, Cognia expects institutions to develop, prioritize, and implement theories of action that will sustain high-performing areas and lead to improvement in underperforming areas.

Cognia requires institutions to complete analyses on selected data sources. Each analysis is evaluated using rubrics aligned to the main activities within the analysis process.

Stakeholder Feedback Analysis

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
The institution has made an accurate appraisal of the quality of their data sources using the Evaluative Criteria.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.6
The institution has analyzed and synthesized information.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.1
The institution has identified areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.4
The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action.	★★★★ Network Average: 2.9

Network Comparison for Stakeholder Feedback Analysis



Student Performance Analysis

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
The institution has made an accurate appraisal of the quality of their data sources using the Evaluative Criteria.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.5
The institution has analyzed and synthesized information.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.2
The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action for areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.4
The institution has demonstrated how they have used results to drive improvements to instruction and learner performance.	★★★★ Network Average: 2.9

Network Comparison for Student Performance Analysis



Learning Environments Analysis

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
The institution has made an accurate appraisal of the quality of their data sources using the Evaluative Criteria.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.5
The institution has analyzed and synthesized information.	★★★★ Network Average: 2.9
The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action for areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.3
The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action.	★★★★ Network Average: 2.9

Network Comparison for Learning Environments Analysis



Culture of Learning

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
The narrative provides evidence for standards related to Culture of Learning.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.6
The institution has analyzed and synthesized information and responded to the prompts for Culture of Learning.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.2
The institution has identified areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.3
The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action.	★★★★ Network Average: 2.9

Network Comparison for Culture of Learning



Leadership for Learning

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
The narrative provides evidence for standards related to Leadership for Learning.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.5
The institution has analyzed and synthesized information and responded to the prompts for Leadership for Learning.	★★★★ Network Average: 3.1
The institution has identified areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.	★★★★



Network Average: 3.2

The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action.

★★★★
Network Average: 2.8

Network Comparison for Leadership for Learning



Engagement of Learning

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
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The narrative provides evidence for standards related to Engagement of Learning.

★★★★
Network Average: 3.5

The institution has analyzed and synthesized information and responded to the prompts for Engagement of Learning.

★★★★
Network Average: 3.1

The institution has identified areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.

★★★★
Network Average: 3.2

The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action.

★★★★
Network Average: 2.8

Network Comparison for Engagement of Learning



Growth in Learning

CRITERION	YOUR SCORE
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The narrative provides evidence for standards related to Growth in Learning.

★★★★
Network Average: 3.5

The institution has analyzed and synthesized information and responded to the prompts for Growth in Learning.

★★★★
Network Average: 3.1

The institution has identified areas of noteworthy achievement and areas in need of improvement.

★★★★
Network Average: 3.2

The institution has interpreted findings, prioritized themes, and developed theories of action.

★★★★
Network Average: 2.8



Network Comparison for Growth in Learning



Performance Standards Evaluation Results

Accreditation is based primarily on the evaluation of evidence that reflects an institution's ability to meet the expectations as defined by the Cognia Performance Standards. The Performance Standards define the elements of quality that research indicates are present in an effective institution. Accreditation standards provide the guideposts to becoming a better institution. The Engagement Review evaluators apply a four-level rubric to determine the degree to which the institution demonstrates effective practices that reflect the expectations of the standard. The rubric scale is designed to indicate the current performance of the institution.

The rubric is scored from Level 4 to Level 1. Descriptions are provided in the table below.

RATING	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
★★★★	4	Demonstrating noteworthy systematic and systemic practices producing clear results that positively impact learners.
★★★☆☆	3	Engaging in practices that provide evidence of expected effectiveness that is reflected in the standard.
★★☆☆☆	2	Developing or improving practices that provide evidence that effort approaches desired level of effectiveness.
★☆☆☆☆	1	Reflecting areas with insufficient evidence and/or limited activity leading toward improvement.

Cognia Performance Standards Ratings

Culture of Learning Standards

A good institution nurtures and sustains a healthy culture for learning. In a healthy culture, learners, parents, and educators feel connected to the purpose and work of the institution as well as behave in alignment with the stated values and norms. The institution also demonstrates evidence that reflects the mission, beliefs, and expectations of the institution (e.g., student work; physical appearance of the institution; participation in institution activities; parents' attendance at institution functions).

Keys to Culture of Learning

A healthy culture is evident where:

- Stakeholders are actively engaged and supportive of the institution's mission
- Learners' academic and non-academic needs and interests are the focal point
- Stakeholders are included and supported

Standard 1

Leaders cultivate and sustain a culture that demonstrates respect and fairness for all learners and is free from bias.

YOUR RATING
★★★★
Network Average: 3.3



LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Leaders consistently model the attributes and implement practices that shape and sustain the desired institution culture, clearly setting expectations for all staff members. Leaders and professional staff members consistently implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision-making that embody the values of respect and fairness for all learners and are free from bias.
3	3 - Leaders regularly model the attributes and implement practices that shape and sustain the desired institution culture, clearly setting expectations for all staff members. Leaders and professional staff members routinely implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision-making that embody the values of respect and fairness for all learners and are free from bias.
2	2 - Leaders occasionally model the attributes and implement practices that shape and sustain the desired institution culture, clearly setting expectations for all staff members. Leaders and professional staff members sometimes implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision-making that embody the values of respect and fairness for all learners and are free from bias.
1	1 - Leaders rarely model the attributes and implement practices that shape and sustain the desired institution culture, clearly setting expectations for all staff members. Leaders and professional staff members seldom implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision-making that embody the values of respect and fairness for all learners and are free from bias.

Standard 2

Learners' well-being is at the heart of the institution's guiding principles, such as mission, purpose, and beliefs.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 3.4

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Staff members continually demonstrate commitment to learners' academic and non-academic needs and interests. The institution's practices, processes, and decisions are documented and regularly reviewed for consistency with its stated values.
3	3 - Staff members routinely demonstrate commitment to learners' academic and non-academic needs and interests. The institution's practices, processes, and decisions are documented and are consistent with and based on its stated values.
2	2 - Staff members occasionally demonstrate commitment to learners' academic and non-academic needs and interests. The institution's practices, processes, and decisions are consistent with and based on its stated values.
1	1 - Staff members seldom demonstrate commitment to learners' academic and non-academic needs and interests. The institution's practices, processes, and decisions may not be based on its stated values.

Standard 3

Leaders actively engage stakeholders to support the institution's priorities and guiding principles that promote learners' academic growth and well-being.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9



LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Leaders establish and sustain conditions that consistently result in support and active participation among stakeholders. Leaders consistently collaborate with stakeholders to advance identified priorities. Institutions implement a formal process to choose areas of focus based on analyzed data on learners' needs and consistent with guiding principles.
3	3 - Leaders establish and sustain conditions that regularly result in support and active participation among stakeholders. Leaders routinely collaborate with stakeholders to advance identified priorities. Institutions choose areas of focus based on analyzed data on learners' needs and consistent with guiding principles.
2	2 - Leaders establish conditions that occasionally result in support and participation among stakeholders. Leaders sometimes collaborate with stakeholders to advance identified priorities. Institutions choose areas of focus sometimes based on data on learners' needs and consistent with guiding principles.
1	1 - Leaders establish conditions that rarely result in support and participation among stakeholders. Leaders seldom collaborate with stakeholders. Institutions choose areas of focus rarely based on data about learners.

Standard 4

Learners benefit from a formal structure that fosters positive relationships with peers and adults.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 3.1

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - A formal structure is planned and consistently implemented to promote a culture and climate in which learners receive support from adults and peers. Peer and adult interactions and behaviors consistently demonstrate respect, trust, and concern for one another's well-being.
3	3 - A formal structure is planned and regularly implemented to promote a culture and climate in which learners receive support from adults and peers. Peer and adult interactions and behaviors routinely demonstrate respect, trust, and concern for one another's well-being.
2	2 - A formal structure may be planned but is minimally implemented to promote a culture and climate in which learners receive support from adults and peers. Peer and adult interactions and behaviors sometimes demonstrate respect, trust, and concern for one another's well-being.
1	1 - A formal structure is not planned or implemented to promote a culture and climate in which learners receive support from adults and peers. Peer and adult interactions and behaviors rarely demonstrate respect, trust, and concern for one another's well-being.

Standard 5

Professional staff members embrace effective collegiality and collaboration in support of learners.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 3.0



LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - The institution's documented operating practices cultivate and set expectations for collegiality and collaboration and are monitored for fidelity of implementation. Professional staff members consistently interact with respect and cooperation, learn from one another, and consider one another's ideas. Professional staff members intentionally and consistently work together in self-formed or assigned groups to review information, identify common problems, and implement solutions on behalf of learners.
3	3 - The institution's documented operating practices cultivate and set expectations for collegiality and collaboration. Professional staff members regularly interact with respect and cooperation, often learn from one another, and routinely consider one another's ideas. Professional staff members often work together in self-formed or assigned groups to review information, identify common problems, and implement solutions on behalf of learners.
2	2 - The institution's operating practices somewhat cultivate and set expectations for collegiality and collaboration. Professional staff members generally interact with respect and cooperation, periodically learn from one another, and somewhat consider one another's ideas. Professional staff members sometimes work together in self-formed or assigned groups to review information, identify common problems, and implement solutions on behalf of learners.
1	1 - The institution's operating practices rarely cultivate and set expectations for collegiality and collaboration. Professional staff members may or may not interact with respect and cooperation, learn from one another, or consider one another's ideas. Professional staff members rarely work together in self-formed or assigned groups to review information, identify common problems, and implement solutions on behalf of learners.

Standard 6

Professional staff members receive the support they need to strengthen their professional practice.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.8

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Professional staff members consistently receive adequate resources and assistance based on data and information unique to the individual. A formal structure ensures that professional staff members receive personalized mentoring and coaching from leaders and peers.
3	3 - Professional staff members receive adequate resources and assistance based on data and information unique to the individual. Professional staff members receive personalized mentoring and coaching from leaders and peers.
2	2 - Professional staff members receive some resources and assistance based on data and information unique to the individual. Professional staff members periodically receive mentoring and coaching from leaders and peers.
1	1 - Professional staff members receive few or no resources and assistance based on data and information unique to the individual. Professional staff members rarely receive mentoring and coaching from leaders and peers.



Network Comparison for Culture of Learning Standards

Your Institution

3.3

Cognia Network Avg.

3.1

Leadership for Learning Standards

The ability of a leader to provide leadership for learning is a key attribute of a good institution. Leaders who engage in their own learning while tangibly supporting the learning process for learners and teachers have a significant positive impact on the success of others. Leaders must also communicate the learning expectations for all learners and teachers continuously, with consistency and purpose. The expectations are embedded in the culture of the institution, reflected by learners', teachers', and leaders' behaviors and attitudes toward learning.

Keys to Leadership for Learning

Leadership for learning is demonstrated when school leaders:

- Communicate expectations for learning
- Influence and impact the culture in positive ways
- Model and engage in learning while supporting others to do so

Standard 7

Leaders guide professional staff members in the continuous improvement process focused on learners' experiences and needs.

YOUR RATING



Network Average: 2.8

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Leaders consistently engage professional staff members in developing, communicating, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting the continuous improvement process. The continuous improvement process is based on analyzed trend and current data about learners' academic and non-academic needs and the institution's organizational effectiveness. Leaders and professional staff members consistently implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision making that improve learning and engage stakeholders.
3	3 - Leaders regularly engage professional staff members in developing, communicating, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting the continuous improvement process. The continuous improvement process is based on analyzed data about learners' academic and non-academic needs and the institution's organizational effectiveness. Leaders and professional staff members routinely implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision making that improve learning and engage stakeholders.
2	2 - Leaders occasionally engage professional staff members in developing, communicating, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting the continuous improvement process. The continuous improvement process is sometimes based on data about learners' academic and non-academic needs and the institution's organizational effectiveness. Leaders and professional staff members sometimes implement ongoing practices, processes, and decision making that improve learning and engage stakeholders.
1	1 - Leaders seldom engage professional staff members in developing, communicating, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting the continuous improvement process. The continuous improvement process is rarely based on data about learners' academic and non-academic needs and the institution's organizational effectiveness. Leaders and professional staff members rarely implement ongoing practices, processes, and



decision making that improve learning and engage stakeholders.

Standard 8

The governing authority demonstrates a commitment to learners by collaborating with leaders to uphold the institution’s priorities and to drive continuous improvement.

YOUR RATING

Network Average: 3.2

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

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|---|--|
| 4 | 4 - The governing authority’s policies and decisions are regularly reviewed to ensure an uncompromised commitment to learners and the institution’s identified priorities. The governing authority and institution leaders use their respective roles and responsibilities to consistently and intentionally collaborate to further the institution’s improvement. |
| 3 | 3 - The governing authority’s policies and decisions demonstrate a commitment to learners and support the institution’s identified priorities. The governing authority and institution leaders use their respective roles and responsibilities to collaboratively further the institution’s improvement. |
| 2 | 2 - The governing authority’s decisions demonstrate some commitment to learners and sometimes support the institution’s identified priorities. The governing authority and institution leaders use their respective roles and responsibilities to focus the institution’s improvement. |
| 1 | 1 - The governing authority’s decisions demonstrate minimal commitment to learners and rarely support the institution’s identified priorities. The governing authority and institution leaders seldom collaborate on the institution’s improvement. |
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Standard 9

Leaders cultivate effective individual and collective leadership among stakeholders.

YOUR RATING

Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

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|---|---|
| 4 | 4 - Leaders consistently recognize and actively encourage leadership potential among stakeholders. Leaders create conditions that ensure formal and informal leadership opportunities, and provide customized support for individuals and groups to improve their leadership skills. Stakeholders show initiative and eagerness to take on individual or shared responsibilities that support the institution’s priorities. |
| 3 | 3 - Leaders frequently recognize and encourage leadership potential among stakeholders. Leaders create conditions that regularly offer formal and informal leadership opportunities, and support individuals and groups to improve their leadership skills. Stakeholders demonstrate a willingness to take on individual or shared responsibilities that support the institution’s priorities. |
| 2 | 2 - Leaders occasionally recognize and encourage leadership potential among stakeholders. Leaders sometimes create conditions that offer leadership opportunities and support individuals and groups to improve their leadership skills. Stakeholders sometimes volunteer to take on individual or shared responsibilities that support the institution’s priorities. |
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1 - Leaders seldom recognize and encourage leadership potential among stakeholders. Leaders rarely create conditions that offer leadership opportunities and support individuals and groups to improve their leadership skills. Stakeholders rarely volunteer to take on individual or shared responsibilities that support the institution's priorities.

Standard 10

Leaders demonstrate expertise in recruiting, supervising, and evaluating professional staff members to optimize learning.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4 - Leaders intentionally and consistently identify, develop, and retain qualified professional staff members who contribute to the institution's purpose and priorities. Leaders consistently use analyzed data from a variety of sources to forecast future staffing needs and employ best practices to attract qualified candidates from a broad range of backgrounds. Leaders implement and monitor documented practices and procedures for supervision and evaluation that improve professional staff members' performance to optimize learning.

3 - Leaders identify, develop, and retain qualified professional staff members who contribute to the institution's purpose and priorities. Leaders routinely use data from a variety of sources to forecast future staffing needs and employ best practices to attract qualified candidates from a broad range of backgrounds. Leaders regularly implement practices and procedures for supervision and evaluation that improve professional staff members' performance to optimize learning.

2 - Leaders hire qualified professional staff members who contribute to the institution's purpose and priorities. Leaders sometimes use data to forecast future staffing needs. Leaders supervise and evaluate professional staff members to improve performance.

1 - Leaders hire qualified professional staff members without consideration of contribution to the institution's purpose and priorities. Leaders rarely use data to forecast future staffing needs. Leaders seldom supervise and evaluate professional staff members to improve performance.

Standard 11

Leaders create and maintain institutional structures and processes that support learners and staff members in both stable and changing environments.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 3.1

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4 - Leaders consistently demonstrate awareness of potential influences on institution stability and engage stakeholders in planning and implementing strategies to maintain stability and respond to change. The institution's structure and processes are documented, monitored, and thoroughly communicated so that learners and staff members know what to do and expect in everyday circumstances. The institution's structure and processes include emergency and contingency plans that support agile and effective responses to both incremental and sudden change.

3 - Leaders regularly demonstrate awareness of potential influences on institution stability and engage stakeholders in planning and implementing strategies to maintain stability and respond to change. The



institution's structure and processes are documented and communicated so that learners and staff members know what to do and expect in everyday circumstances. The institution's structure and processes include emergency and contingency plans that support responses to both incremental and sudden change.

2 - Leaders sometimes demonstrate awareness of potential influences on institution stability and engage stakeholders in planning and implementing strategies to maintain stability and respond to change. The institution's structure and processes are occasionally documented and communicated so that learners and staff members know what to do and expect in everyday circumstances. The institution's structure and processes include emergency and contingency plans to respond to change.

1 - Leaders seldom demonstrate awareness of potential influences on institution stability. The institution's structure and processes are not well documented or communicated so that learners and staff members know what to do and expect in everyday circumstances. The institution's structure and processes may not include emergency and contingency plans to respond to change.

Standard 12

Professional staff members implement curriculum and instruction that are aligned for relevancy and effectiveness for each and every learner.

YOUR RATING

Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
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4	4 - Professional staff members systematically implement, review, and adjust curriculum and instruction based on recognized and evidence-based content standards. Curriculum and instructional practices are regularly assessed through a formal, systematic process to assure alignment, relevancy, and effectiveness for each and every learner.
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3	3 - Professional staff members implement, review, and adjust curriculum and instruction based on recognized and evidence-based content standards. Curriculum and instructional practices are regularly assessed to assure alignment, relevancy, and effectiveness for each and every learner.
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2	2 - Professional staff members implement curriculum and instruction based on recognized and evidence-based content standards. Curriculum and instructional practices are sometimes assessed to assure alignment, relevancy, and effectiveness for each and every learner.
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1	1 - Professional staff members implement locally adopted curriculum and instruction. Curriculum and instructional practices are rarely or not assessed to assure alignment, relevancy, and effectiveness for each and every learner.
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Standard 13

Qualified personnel instruct and assist learners and each other in support of the institution's mission, purpose, and beliefs.

YOUR RATING

Network Average: 3.0

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
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4	4 - All staff members demonstrate commitment to enhancing their professional practice over and above the required knowledge and skills for their positions. Staff members work collaboratively to instruct and assist
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learners and colleagues in support of the institution's guiding principles. Staff members' individual and collective decisions and behaviors consistently demonstrate alignment and coherence with the institution's mission, purpose, and beliefs.

3 - All staff members demonstrate the required knowledge and skills for their positions. Staff members work cooperatively to instruct and assist learners and colleagues in support of the institution's guiding principles. Staff members' individual and collective decisions and behaviors demonstrate alignment and coherence with the institution's mission, purpose, and beliefs.

2 - Most staff members demonstrate the required knowledge and skills for their positions, and a plan is being implemented to ensure that all staff members are qualified for their positions. Staff members sometimes work cooperatively to instruct and assist learners and colleagues in support of the institution's guiding principles. Staff members' individual and collective decisions and behaviors sometimes demonstrate alignment and coherence with the institution's mission, purpose, and beliefs.

1 - Some staff members do not demonstrate the required knowledge and skills for their positions, and a plan does not exist to ensure that all staff members are qualified for their positions. Staff members rarely work cooperatively to instruct and assist learners and colleagues in support of the institution's guiding principles. Staff members' individual and collective decisions and behaviors rarely demonstrate alignment and coherence with the institution's mission, purpose, and beliefs.

Standard 14

Curriculum and instruction are augmented by reliable information resources and materials that advance learning and support learners' personal interests.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
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4	4 - Professional staff members consistently suggest and provide thoughtfully selected information resources and materials for learners that broaden and enrich the learning process and support learners' personal interests. A systematic process is used to identify and verify that information resources and materials are selected from credible sources.
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3	3 - Professional staff members suggest and provide thoughtfully selected information resources and materials for learners that broaden and enrich the learning process and support learners' personal interests. These information resources and materials are selected from credible sources and based on verifiable information.
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2	2 - Professional staff members sometimes suggest and provide information resources and materials for learners that broaden and enrich the learning process and/or support learners' personal interests. These information resources and materials are usually selected from credible sources and based on verifiable information.
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1	1 - Professional staff members rarely suggest and provide information resources and materials for learners that broaden and enrich the learning process or support learners' personal interests. These information resources and materials are rarely selected from credible sources or may not be based on verifiable information.
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Standard 15

Learners' needs drive the allocation and management of human, material, digital, and fiscal resources.

YOUR RATING




LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Professional staff members engage in a systematic process to analyze learners' needs and current trend data to adjust the allocation and management of human, material, digital, and fiscal resources to ensure each and every learner's needs are met. Adjustments to resource allocation are consistently based on current data at any point in time.
3	3 - Professional staff members routinely analyze learners' needs and current trend data to adjust the allocation and management of human, material, digital, and fiscal resources to ensure each and every learner's needs are met. Adjustments to resource allocation are routinely based on current data and at predetermined points in time.
2	2 - Professional staff members sometimes analyze learners' needs, current, and trend data to adjust the allocation and management of human, material, digital, and fiscal resources to ensure each and every learner's needs are met. Adjustments to resource allocation are sometimes based on current or updated data.
1	1 - Professional staff members rarely analyze learners' needs and trend data to adjust the allocation and management of human, material, digital, and fiscal resources. Resources are rarely allocated in alignment with documented learners' needs or to ensure each and every learner's needs are met.

Network Comparison for Leadership for Learning Standards



Engagement of Learning Standards

A good institution ensures that learners are engaged in the learning environment. Learners who are engaged in the learning environment participate with confidence and display agency over their own learning. A good institution adopts policies and engages in practices that support all learners being included in the learning process.

Keys to Engagement of Learning

Engagement is demonstrated when all learners:

- Are included in the learning process
- Participate with confidence
- Have agency over their learning

Standard 16

Learners experience curriculum and instruction that emphasize the value of different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities reflective of the global community.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
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4	4 - Respect for different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities is embedded in every aspect of the institution's culture and learning environments. The presence and contributions of the global community are authentically integrated in the curricular content and instructional practices.
3	3 - Respect for different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities is clearly present in the institution's culture and learning environments. The presence and contributions of the global community are intentionally included in the curricular content and instructional practices.
2	2 - Respect for different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities is somewhat present in the institution's culture and learning environments. The presence and contributions of the global community are inconsistently included in the curricular content and instructional practices.
1	1 - Respect for different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities is rarely present in the institution's culture and learning environments. The presence and contributions of the global community are not included in the curricular content and instructional practices.

Standard 17

Learners have the support and opportunities to realize their learning potential.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 3.0

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Professional staff members develop relationships with and understand the needs and well-being of individual learners. Academic and non-academic experiences are tailored to the needs and well-being of individual learners. Learners are challenged and supported to strive toward maximal levels of achievement and self-efficacy without barriers or hindrances by schedules or access to academic and non-academic offerings.
3	3 - Professional staff members know their learners well enough to develop and provide a variety of academic and non-academic experiences. Learners have access and choice in most academic and non-academic opportunities available according to grade levels or through expected sequencing of courses. Learners rarely encounter barriers when accessing academic and non-academic experiences most suited to their individual needs and well-being. Learners are challenged and supported to strive toward individual achievement and self-efficacy.
2	2 - Professional staff members consider varying learner needs and well-being when developing and providing academic and non-academic experiences. Learners have access to some variety in academic and non-academic opportunities available according to grade levels or through expected sequencing of courses. Learners may encounter barriers when accessing some academic and non-academic experiences most suited to their individual needs and well-being. Learners are sometimes challenged and supported to strive toward individual achievement and self-efficacy.
1	1 - Professional staff members give little or no consideration to individual learner needs and well-being when developing and providing academic and non-academic experiences. Academic and non-academic opportunities are limited and standardized according to grade levels or a predetermined sequencing of courses. Learners frequently encounter a variety of barriers when accessing academic and non-academic offerings that would be well-suited to their individual needs and well-being. Learners are rarely challenged to strive toward individual achievement and self-efficacy.

Standard 18



Learners are immersed in an environment that fosters lifelong skills including creativity, curiosity, risk taking, collaboration, and design thinking.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4	4 - Conditions across all aspects of the institution promote learners' lifelong skills. Learners engage in ongoing experiences that develop the non-academic skills important for their next steps in learning and for future success. A formal structure ensures that learning experiences collectively build skills in creativity, curiosity, risk taking, collaboration, and design thinking.
3	3 - Conditions within most aspects of the institution promote learners' lifelong skills. Learners engage in experiences that develop the non-academic skills important for their next steps in learning and for future success. Collectively, the learning experiences build skills in creativity, curiosity, risk taking, collaboration, and design thinking.
2	2 - Conditions within some aspects of the institution promote learners' lifelong skills. Learners engage in some experiences that develop non-academic skills important for their next steps in learning and for future success. Some learning experiences build skills in creativity, curiosity, risk taking, collaboration, and design thinking.
1	1 - Learners engage in environments that focus primarily on academic learning objectives only. Little or no emphasis is placed on non-academic skills important for next steps in learning and for future success. Learning experiences rarely build skills in creativity, curiosity, risk taking, collaboration, or design thinking.

Standard 19

Learners are immersed in an environment that promotes and respects student agency and responsibility for their learning.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.6

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4	4 - Conditions across all aspects of the institution promote learners' active discovery and expression of their needs and interests. Learners give input into the instructional and learning activities they pursue and the methods in which they learn. Learners consistently identify their learning targets and monitor their progress.
3	3 - Conditions within most aspects of the institution are learner-centered and promote learners' active discovery and expression of their needs and interests. Learners give input into most of the instructional and learning activities available to them. Learners are frequently involved in identifying their learning targets and monitoring their progress.
2	2 - Conditions within some aspects of the institution are learner-centered and promote learners' active discovery and expression of their needs and interests. Learners have some opportunity for input into the instructional and learning activities available to them. Learners are sometimes involved in identifying their learning targets and monitoring their progress.
1	1 - Learners engage in environments that are heavily instructor-centered. Learners have little or no input into the instructional and learning activities available to them. Learners are rarely expected to monitor their learning progress.

Standard 20



Learners engage in experiences that promote and develop their self-confidence and love of learning.

YOUR RATING
★★★★☆
Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4	4 - Learners consistently pursue challenging opportunities that may not always result in success, knowing that they will be supported when needed. Learners readily and consistently show motivation, curiosity, and excitement about their learning.
3	3 - Most learners pursue opportunities that may not always result in success, knowing they will be supported. Most learners show motivation, curiosity, and excitement about their learning.
2	2 - Some learners pursue opportunities that may not always result in success, but only with significant, individual support. Some learners show motivation, curiosity, and excitement about their learning.
1	1 - Most learners primarily pursue opportunities they believe to be risk-free or heavily guaranteed to be successful. Most learners show little motivation, curiosity, or excitement about their learning.

Standard 21

Instruction is characterized by high expectations and learner-centered practices.

YOUR RATING
★★★★☆
Network Average: 2.8

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4	4 - Learners engage in instructional activities, experiences, and interactions based on their individual needs and interests. Professional staff members consistently deliver instruction designed for learners to reach their potential.
3	3 - Most learners engage in instructional activities, experiences, and interactions based on their individual needs and interests. Professional staff members routinely deliver instruction designed for learners to reach their potential.
2	2 - Learners engage in instructional activities, experiences, and interactions based on needs and interests typical of most students. Professional staff members infrequently deliver instruction designed for learners to reach their potential.
1	1 - Instructional activities are primarily designed around curriculum objectives with little or no focus on learner needs and interests. Professional staff members rarely deliver instruction designed for learners to reach their individual potential.

Standard 22

Instruction is monitored and adjusted to advance and deepen individual learners' knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.

YOUR RATING
★★★★☆
Network Average: 2.7



LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Professional staff members consistently monitor and adjust instruction based on each learner's response to instruction and achievement of desired learning targets. Professional staff members use a formal, systematic process for analyzing trend and current data to deepen each learner's understanding of content at increasing levels of complexity.
3	3 - Professional staff members regularly monitor and adjust instruction based on each learner's response to instruction and achievement of desired learning targets. Professional staff members routinely analyze trend and current data to deepen each learner's understanding of content.
2	2 - Professional staff members sometimes monitor and adjust instruction based on each learner's achievement of desired learning targets. Professional staff members sometimes analyze data to deepen each learner's understanding of content.
1	1 - Professional staff members rarely monitor and adjust instruction. Professional staff members rarely analyze data to deepen each learner's understanding of content.

Standard 23

Professional staff members integrate digital resources that deepen and advance learners' engagement with instruction and stimulate their curiosity.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.7

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4	4 - Professional staff members seamlessly and deliberately integrate digital resources that add value to the learning process and encourage learners' active engagement in the learning process. Digital resources consistently support learners' pursuit of interests and deepen or extend curriculum topics to stimulate learners' curiosity.
3	3 - Professional staff members intentionally select and integrate digital resources that add value to the learning process and encourage learners' active engagement in the learning process. Digital resources routinely support learners' pursuit of interests and deepen or extend curriculum topics to stimulate learners' curiosity.
2	2 - Professional staff members occasionally select and integrate digital resources that add value to the learning process or encourage learners' active engagement in the learning process. Digital resources sometimes support learners' pursuit of interests and deepen or extend curriculum topics to stimulate learners' curiosity.
1	1 - Professional staff members select and integrate few or no digital resources or select digital resources that rarely add value to the learning process or encourage learners' active engagement in the learning process. Digital resources rarely support learners' pursuit of interests or deepen or extend curriculum topics to stimulate learners' curiosity.



Network Comparison for Engagement of Learning Standards



Growth in Learning Standards

A good institution positively impacts learners throughout their journey of learning. A positive impact on the learner is reflected in readiness to engage in and preparedness for the next transition in their learning. Growth in learning is also reflected in learners' ability to meet expectations in knowledge and skill acquisition.

Keys to Growth in Learning

Growth is evident when:

- Learners possess non-academic skills that ensure readiness to learn
- Learners' academic achievement reflects preparedness to learn
- Learners demonstrate growth in meeting expectations of learning as defined by the institution
- Learners attain knowledge and skills necessary to achieve goals for learning

Standard 24

Leaders use data and input from a variety of sources to make decisions for learners' and staff members' growth and well-being.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
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4	4 - Leaders consistently demonstrate skill and insight in considering a variety of information, choosing relevant and timely information, and interpreting data. Leaders make intentional decisions by consistently taking into account data and additional factors that have an impact on learners and staff members, such as institution history, recent experiences, and future possibilities.
3	3 - Leaders regularly demonstrate skill and insight in considering a variety of information, choosing relevant and timely information, and interpreting data. Leaders make decisions by routinely taking into account data and additional factors that have an impact on learners and staff members, such as institution history, recent experiences, and future possibilities.
2	2 - Leaders sometimes demonstrate skill and insight in considering and choosing information and interpreting data. Leaders make decisions that occasionally take into account data and additional factors that have an impact on learners and staff members, such as institution history, recent experiences, and future possibilities.
1	1 - Leaders rarely demonstrate skill and insight in considering and choosing information and interpreting data. Leaders make decisions that rarely take into account data and additional factors that have an impact on learners and staff members, such as institution history, recent experiences, and future possibilities.

Standard 25



Leaders promote action research by professional staff members to improve their practice and advance learning.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.5

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4	4 - Leaders intentionally create and preserve a culture that invites inquiry, reflection, and dialogue about instructional problems and issues relevant to the institution and/or individual learning environments. Professional staff members, as a group or as individuals, consistently engage in action research using an inquiry-based process that includes identifying instructional areas of improvement, collecting data, and reporting results to make informed instructional changes. Leaders provide and engage in learning opportunities customized for professional staff members about action research.
3	3 - Leaders regularly create and preserve a culture that invites inquiry, reflection, and dialogue about instructional problems and issues relevant to the institution and/or individual learning environments. Professional staff members, as a group or as individuals, routinely engage in action research using an inquiry-based process that includes identifying instructional areas of improvement, collecting data, and reporting results to make informed instructional changes. Leaders provide and engage in learning opportunities for professional staff members to implement action research.
2	2 - Leaders occasionally create and preserve a culture that invites inquiry, reflection, and dialogue about instructional problems and issues relevant to the institution and/or individual learning environments. Professional staff members, as a group or as individuals, sometimes engage in action research using an inquiry-based process that includes identifying instructional areas of improvement, collecting data, and reporting results to make informed instructional changes. Leaders provide and engage in some learning opportunities for professional staff members to implement action research.
1	1 - Leaders rarely create a culture that invites inquiry, reflection, and dialogue about instructional problems and issues relevant to the institution or learning environments. Professional staff members seldom engage in action research to make informed instructional changes. Leaders provide and engage in few or no learning opportunities for professional staff members about action research.

Standard 26

Leaders regularly evaluate instructional programs and organizational conditions to improve instruction and advance learning.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.7

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4	4 - Leaders consistently implement a documented process to determine the effectiveness of the institution's curriculum and instruction, including staffing and resources. Leaders use a formal, systematic process for analyzing current and trend data and stakeholder input to make decisions about retaining, changing, or replacing programs and practices.
3	3 - Leaders routinely implement a documented process to determine the effectiveness of the institution's curriculum and instruction, including staffing and resources. Leaders use analyzed current and trend data and stakeholder input to make decisions about retaining, changing, or replacing programs and practices.
2	2 - Leaders occasionally implement a process to determine the effectiveness of the institution's curriculum and instruction, including staffing and resources. Leaders sometimes use data and stakeholder input to make decisions about retaining, changing, or replacing programs and practices.



- 1 - Leaders rarely implement a process to determine the effectiveness of the institution's curriculum and instruction, including staffing and resources. Leaders seldom use data and stakeholder input to make decisions about retaining, changing, or replacing programs and practices.

Standard 27

Learners' academic and non-academic needs are identified and effectively addressed through appropriate interventions.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

- 4 - The institution consistently addresses the range of developmental, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs to support learners' ability to learn. Strategies and interventions for these needs are formally and systematically planned and implemented based on analyzed information, data, and instructional best practices to ensure learners' success.
- 3 - The institution routinely addresses the range of developmental, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs to support learners' ability to learn. Strategies and interventions for these needs are regularly planned and implemented based on analyzed information, data, and instructional best practices to ensure learners' success.
- 2 - The institution sometimes addresses the range of developmental, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs to support learners' ability to learn. Strategies and interventions for these needs are occasionally planned and implemented based on information, data, and instructional best practices to ensure learners' success.
- 1 - The institution rarely addresses the range of developmental, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs to support learners' ability to learn. Strategies and interventions for these needs are seldom planned and implemented based on information, data, or instructional best practices.

Standard 28

Learners pursue individual goals including the acquisition of academic and non-academic skills important for their educational futures and careers.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.9

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

- 4 - Professional staff members consistently engage with learners to help them recognize their talents and potential and to identify meaningful, attainable goals that support academic, career, personal, and social skills. Learners consistently choose activities and monitor their own progress, demonstrating active ownership of their stated goals.
- 3 - Professional staff members regularly engage with learners to help them recognize their talents and potential and to identify meaningful, attainable goals that support academic, career, personal, and social skills. Learners routinely choose activities and monitor their own progress, demonstrating active ownership of their stated goals.



2 - Professional staff members sometimes engage with learners to help them recognize their talents and potential and to identify meaningful, attainable goals that support academic, career, personal, and social skills. Learners occasionally choose activities and monitor their own progress, demonstrating active ownership of their stated goals.

1 - Professional staff members rarely engage with learners to help them recognize their talents and potential and to identify meaningful, attainable goals that support academic, career, personal, and social skills. Learners do not choose activities or monitor their own progress toward goals.

Standard 29

Understanding learners’ needs and interests drives the design, delivery, application, and evaluation of professional learning.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.6

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4 - Professional learning is learner-centered, customized around the needs of individual or groups of professional staff members, and focuses on improving pedagogical skills and knowledge to better address learners’ needs and interests. A documented process to select, deliver, implement, and evaluate professional learning is fully implemented and monitored for fidelity.

3 - Professional learning is learner-centered, designed around the principle that professional staff members need opportunities to focus on improving pedagogical skills and knowledge to better address learners’ needs and interests. A documented process to select, deliver, implement, and evaluate professional learning is being fully implemented.

2 - Professional learning is occasionally learner-centered designed around the principle that professional staff members need opportunities to focus on improving pedagogical skills and knowledge to better address learners’ needs and interests. A documented process to select, deliver, implement, and evaluate professional learning exists but is not fully implemented.

1 - Professional learning is rarely learner-centered and may or may not focus on improving pedagogical skills and knowledge to better address learners’ needs and interests. A documented process to select, deliver, implement, and evaluate professional learning does not exist.

Standard 30

Learners’ progress is measured through a balanced system that includes assessment both for learning and of learning.

YOUR RATING

 Network Average: 2.8

LEVEL DESCRIPTION

4 - Professional staff members and learners collaborate to determine learners’ progress toward and achievement of intended learning objectives based on assessment data gathered through formal and informal methods. Assessment data are systematically used for ongoing planning, decision making, and modification of curriculum and instruction.



- 3 - Professional staff members and learners regularly use assessment data gathered through formal and informal methods to determine learners' progress toward and achievement of intended learning objectives. Assessment data are routinely used for ongoing planning, decision making, and modification of curriculum and instruction.
- 2 - Professional staff members occasionally use assessment data gathered through formal and informal methods to determine learners' progress toward and achievement of intended learning objectives. Assessment data are sometimes used for ongoing planning, decision making, and modification of curriculum and instruction.
- 1 - Professional staff members seldom use assessment data to determine learners' progress toward and achievement of intended learning objectives. Assessment data are rarely or inconsistently used for ongoing planning, decision making, and modification of curriculum and instruction.

Standard 31

Learners demonstrate growth in their academic performance based on valid and reliable assessments.

YOUR RATING



LEVEL DESCRIPTION

- 4 - The institution consistently sustains high levels of learner performance over time and/or shows consistent trends of improvement in low-performing areas. The institution continually monitors and uses results from multiple required and/or selected valid and reliable assessments of student learning and implements formal plans to address areas of low performance. The institution consistently communicates results and plans for improving learner performance with stakeholders.
- 3 - The institution routinely sustains high levels of learner performance over time and/or shows trends of improvement in low-performing areas. The institution regularly monitors and uses results from multiple required and/or selected valid and reliable assessments of student learning and implements plans to address areas of low performance. The institution routinely communicates results and plans for improving learner performance with stakeholders.
- 2 - The institution occasionally sustains high levels of learner performance over time and/or shows trends of improvement in low-performing areas. The institution sometimes monitors results from multiple required and/or selected assessments of student learning and implements plans to address areas of low performance. The institution occasionally communicates results and plans for improving learner performance with stakeholders.
- 1 - The institution rarely sustains high levels of learner performance over time or shows trends of improvement in low-performing areas. The institution inconsistently monitors or uses results from multiple required and/or selected assessments of student learning and implements plans to address areas of low performance. The institution seldom communicates results or plans for improving learner performance with stakeholders.



Insights from the Review

The evaluators engaged in professional discussions and deliberations about the effectiveness of the processes, programs, and practices within the institution to arrive at the findings of the report. Guided by evidence, the evaluators arrived at findings that will inform your institution's continuous improvement efforts. The findings are aligned to research-based criteria designed to improve student learning and organizational effectiveness.

The findings are organized into narratives around four Key Characteristics critical to the success of any educational institution: culture of learning, leadership for learning, engagement of learning, and growth in learning. The narratives also provide the next steps to guide your institution's improvement journey in its efforts to improve the quality of educational opportunities for all learners. The feedback provided in this Accreditation Engagement Review Report will assist your institution in reflecting on its current improvement efforts and adapting and adjusting your plans to continuously strive for improvement.

Culture of Learning

Leaders align practices with the school's mission and vision to support and prioritize learner well-being. The school's mission is to "provide an academic charter school choice for students with at least 11 high school credits who are not older than 21 and want to graduate from high school and transition to college, career, and military." The mission statement reinforces the vision that all students will complete high school and college as self-actualized citizens and leaders. Leaders translate this mission into practice by offering a system of support that strikes a balance between academic rigor and personal development. Professional staff utilize wrap-around services, such as mentoring, tutoring, and mental health support, in conjunction with small class sizes, to address students' individual needs. Dual enrollment opportunities allow many students to graduate with an associate degree or certification, demonstrating a strong alignment between the school's stated outcomes and student achievement. Structured preparation for standardized assessments and exposure to college and career pathways further equip students for success beyond high school.

School policies and the student handbook demonstrate alignment with the mission and vision,

embedding expectations that extend beyond academics to include readiness, resilience, and leadership skills. Students benefit from formal structured supports, including student life skills courses, mentoring, counselors, and success coaches. With a small student population and staff, the school fosters close, supportive relationships and personalized attention. The school offers extracurricular activities and plans to expand these opportunities, recognizing that engagement in them builds relationships with peers and adults. These practices illustrate a cohesive approach that supports students in meeting graduation requirements.

Collaboration occurs formally and informally through staff meetings, workshops, and daily professional interactions. The principal plays an active role in monitoring and facilitating collaboration by leading an annual summit, summer workshops, monthly staff meetings, and weekly leadership sessions. Additionally, leaders serve on college committees to represent the school's priorities and initiatives. This collaboration broadens perspectives and strengthens alignment with the school's mission. Staff also benefit from one another's expertise, sharing instructional tools and developing policies and strategies that enhance classroom practices. Leaders provide adequate resources and personal support through coaching and informal evaluation processes. An annual needs assessment, along with staff feedback, informs the professional development plan, ensuring that growth opportunities are responsive and targeted. A culture of collaboration is evident, supported by structures that promote shared learning and continuous growth.

The school seeks stakeholder input through surveys, focus groups, school advisory council (SAC) meetings, and student government participation. Longitudinal survey data indicate that stakeholders consistently view the school climate positively, particularly in the areas of respect, fairness, and a welcoming environment for all. Parent and student participation rates were 32%, compared with 79% for staff. Increasing participation could enable the school to broaden its representation and include a broader range of voices. Over the past three years, stakeholders have reported high satisfaction with the school's ability to set high expectations and demonstrate effective instructional leadership. Leaders identified monitoring of student progress and



school community engagement as lower-scoring areas; however, these aspects remain rated high and demonstrate an upward trajectory, indicating ongoing school improvement efforts. These findings reflect consistent stakeholder engagement; however, increasing participation rates and further analyzing disaggregated data by subgroups could provide a clearer picture of perspectives and ensure improvement strategies are responsive to all. This level of inclusive engagement reinforces the mission and vision by aligning school practices with the needs and aspirations of students, families, and the community. The evaluators suggest refining processes to analyze disaggregated stakeholder data and increase participation to identify the needs of all stakeholder groups.

Leadership for Learning

Leaders and staff implement practices and processes that strengthen learning and engage stakeholders. Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School is a public charter high school operated by Polk State College. It is subject to the oversight requirements of the Florida Department of Education. The school serves students in grades 11 and 12 who have earned at least 11 high school credits. The Polk State College District Board of Trustees oversees the school, and the governor of Florida appoints its members. The Board holds authority over policy, programs, budgets, and personnel, with the president of the college reporting directly to the trustees. At the school level, the principal directs day-to-day operations and collaborates with the trustees, college administration, and high school leadership to ensure policy alignment, accountability, and continuous school improvement. The school provided several examples of formalized processes and written policies that guide operations, clarify roles and responsibilities, and support consistent implementation of practices. These governance structures, supported by formalized processes and written policies, promote accountability and alignment between the school and the college, ensuring that decision-making supports student achievement and long-term institutional improvement.

The school develops an annual continuous improvement Plan (ACIP) in collaboration with stakeholders, including the SAC. The plan contains Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART) goals that outline specific actions, identify barriers and strategies to overcome them, assign responsibility for each step, and establish

measurable outcomes. This process is formally documented in the school's ACIP process guide, reinforcing consistent practices that promote accountability and support school improvement efforts. It addresses focus areas such as teacher mentoring, academic achievement, stakeholder engagement, school sustainability, financial management, professional development, and technology. The ACIP is grounded in a comprehensive needs assessment and reflects the collective input of stakeholders. Stakeholder surveys indicate strong confidence in school leadership, clarity of the school's goals, and opportunities for meaningful input to support school improvement. This collaborative, data-informed approach aligns initiatives with priorities and incorporates stakeholder input to support school improvement.

Leaders develop and retain qualified teachers who contribute to the institution's culture and priorities; however, there was limited evidence that the school has a formalized plan for recruitment and retention, and hiring has primarily relied on word-of-mouth within the community. Enrollment trends project an increase in students for the 2026–27 school year. As a small school, the current staff meet immediate instructional needs; however, additional qualified teachers will be necessary to maintain program quality and support student success. Without a structured approach, the school may face challenges in attracting and retaining educators aligned with its mission and expectations. Establishing a formal recruitment and retention plan would provide a proactive framework to guide hiring, onboarding, and retention strategies, ensuring the school can sustain its culture and priorities as enrollment grows. The team suggests that leaders develop and implement a formal recruitment and retention plan to strengthen capacity and maintain program quality as enrollment grows.

Engagement of Learning

Learners engage in instructional activities, experiences, and interactions that foster critical thinking, collaboration, and application of knowledge. The school promotes rigor and college readiness through honors STEM, dual enrollment, and career and technical pathways in fields such as business, health, and technology. Instruction integrates technology across all classrooms, utilizing platforms such as Canvas, Edmentum, and Florida Virtual School to support flexible, learner-centered approaches. Project-based learning, research, and leadership opportunities provide real-world



application, while interdisciplinary lessons deepen understanding across subjects. Students collaborate in teams to solve problems and complete projects, developing academic and interpersonal skills. The curriculum, aligned with Florida standards, emphasizes discussion, blended learning, and competency-based assessments to prepare students for college and career endeavors. Through these approaches, students build the critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary education and the workforce.

Learners have access to choice-driven learning opportunities, allowing them to pursue individual interests and strengths. Stakeholder surveys conducted over the past three years have consistently shown high agreement (95%–98%) that the school effectively prepares students for college and future challenges, and teachers express confidence in students' abilities to achieve at high levels. Additionally, the school provides opportunities for mentorship, group projects, presentations, and reflective assignments, through which students develop skills in goal setting, stress management, and balancing academic responsibilities. Teachers and staff foster creativity and collaboration through student-designed experiments, research projects, and student-led presentations. These experiences strengthen and enhance content knowledge and skills in communication, leadership, and teamwork.

To complete the Learning Environment Observation Analysis, the school utilized longitudinal data from the Marzano Teaching Evaluation Model. Educators regularly receive high evaluation ratings and collaborate with administrators to create individualized growth plans that support their professional learning. Administrators also conduct walkthroughs and informal observations, recorded in the Frontline software, to target specific topics and collect engagement data. This approach reflects a strong commitment to instructional quality and continuous improvement. However, the school recognizes that while it collects data on student engagement, additional tools for capturing and analyzing classroom interactions would strengthen the process. Currently, tracking tools for observations are limited in their capabilities. By refining the data collection system, the school could maximize the benefits of student engagement data. This could provide richer insight into student engagement, informing instructional adjustments and offering teachers immediate feedback. A refined system would also enable leaders

to link activities to measurable improvements in student achievement, thereby strengthening evidence of impact and ensuring that initiatives are meaningful and effective. The team suggests that the school refine its systems to track and utilize student engagement data to enhance instruction and demonstrate a connection between teacher growth and student success.

Growth in Learning

Professional staff utilize data-driven strategies, targeted interventions, and ongoing professional development to address student needs and foster academic growth. Leaders gather input from multiple data sources, including student academic histories and other factors that influence performance and decision-making. Teachers implement strategies including explicit instruction, the use of rubrics, and opportunities for practice and feedback. Engagement techniques such as quizzes, think-pair-share, and guided labs deepen understanding and foster collaboration skills. Additionally, teachers promote structured study systems, including organizational skills, notebook strategies, tutoring, and online supports, to extend learning beyond the classroom. Counselors, student success coaches, and teachers collaborate with students to set goals that reflect academic, career, and personal needs. Through these processes, learners receive choices and monitor their own progress, which fosters a sense of ownership over their educational journey. The effectiveness of these strategies has created positive student outcomes.

The school has consistently maintained high graduation rates of 95–98% over several years, surpassing district and state averages. Students also outperform peers on the ACT and the SAT scores. However, analysis of student performance by demographic groups reveals achievement gaps among student populations, highlighting the need for continued focus on closing these gaps. Stakeholder surveys further support the school's strong graduation rates and student performance. These results indicate high levels of satisfaction, noting that teachers address challenges, provide mentoring and tutoring, and keep students informed of their academic progress. These combined efforts support notable student achievement; however, the school has identified a concern regarding course withdrawals, particularly in dual enrollment and college-level courses. Some students struggle with academic readiness, time management, or underutilization of



support despite staff efforts. To address this, faculty and leadership are strengthening student communication skills and more closely monitoring early warning indicators to provide timely interventions before course withdrawal becomes necessary.

Leaders use a documented process to select and implement professional learning. The school follows the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Model, in which teachers develop individual growth plans that inform the professional development schedule and needs assessment. Teachers participate in conferences, workshops, and peer-led training sessions, ensuring a schoolwide impact. Teachers reinforce their professional learning through professional learning communities (PLCs), where subject-area teams regularly meet to analyze data, share best practices, engage in standards-based planning, and learn from one another. Leaders implement and document professional learning initiatives, including professional development and PLCs. They have an opportunity to strengthen evaluation by systematically measuring how these initiatives impact student learning and their effectiveness in improving instructional practice. The team suggests that the school develop and implement a process to assess the effectiveness of professional development and PLCs, incorporating classroom observations, student performance data, and teacher self-reflections.





Summary of Findings

The review process focused on establishing evidence of effective practice and performance of the institution in relation to the accreditation standards.

Noteworthy Practices

In conducting the review, the evaluator identified Noteworthy Practices that reflect significant areas of strength in the work of the institution. Although there are numerous examples of the institution's level of quality, the recognition of Noteworthy Practices reflects the greatest strengths of the institution.

-
- 1 Leaders actively guide the continuous improvement process, using data and structured practices to enhance learning and engage stakeholders. As a result, the school has achieved high stakeholder satisfaction and earned an A rating from the Florida Department of Education.**

Standard 1 Standard 7

Areas for Improvement

Using the information collected and reviewed, the evaluator identified the following Areas for Improvement that will help the institution improve. The Areas for Improvement will be revisited when the institution conducts Cognia's Progress Report.

-
- 1 Formalize and implement a recruitment and retention plan to attract and retain qualified teachers.**

Standard 10 Standard 13

RATIONALE When leaders formalize and implement a recruitment and retention plan, then they can monitor and evaluate staffing practices, which could strengthen instructional consistency and support positive student outcomes.

- 2 Refine and implement stakeholder engagement processes that support school priorities and guiding principles to analyze feedback and increase participation rates.**

Standard 3

RATIONALE When leaders use disaggregated stakeholder feedback and implement strategies to increase participation rates, then decision-making could become more responsive to learners' needs.

- 3 Develop and implement a process to assess the effectiveness of professional learning programs augmenting overall learner success.**

Standard 26 Standard 29

RATIONALE When leaders assess professional learning through a documented process, then professional staff can use data and reflections to link growth to practice, which could enhance instructional quality and support student learning.



Accreditation Status and Index of Education Quality®

Cognia will review the results of the Accreditation Engagement Review to make a final determination concerning the accreditation status of your institution based on these findings. Cognia provides the Index of Education Quality (IEQ) as a holistic measure of overall performance.

Your Institution's IEQ

327

Cognia's IEQ Network Average: **297**

STATUS AND SCORE

Accredited with Distinction
Above 360

Accredited with Merit
320 to 360

Accredited
280 to 319

Accredited Needing Improvement
240 to 279

Accredited Under Review*
Below 240

DESCRIPTION

An Index of Education Quality® above 360 indicates that the institution substantially exceeds Cognia's expectations for accreditation in almost all areas and exemplifies educational excellence. While the accreditation team still may identify Areas for Improvement, the review findings indicate several Noteworthy Practices.

An Index of Education Quality of 320 to 360 indicates the institution exceeds Cognia's expectations for accreditation and includes one or more Areas for Improvement and one or more Noteworthy Practices.

An Index of Education Quality in the range of 280 to 319 suggests the institution has a limited number of Areas for Improvement and may include one or more Noteworthy Practices.

An Index of Education Quality in the range of 240 to 279 indicates the institution has several Areas for Improvement that must be addressed to meet expectations.

An Index of Education Quality score below 240 indicates that the institution has many Areas for Improvement and should focus its improvement efforts on those areas and the related Standards and/or Assurances. The institution will be required to present Cognia with evidence of improvement within one year via a Monitoring Review. Additional Progress Reports will be required if satisfactory improvement is not achieved.

**Accredited Under Review status also can be conferred if an institution is in noncompliance with policies and Assurances impacting the effective operations of the institution or system.*



Your Next Steps

Accreditation is a continuous improvement process. The Engagement Review provides independent, objective guidance in relation to the Performance Standards and the institution's improvement journey. Upon receiving the Accreditation Engagement Review Report, the institution is expected to implement the following steps:

- Review and share the findings in this report with stakeholders.
- Use the findings from the report to guide and strengthen your institution's improvement efforts.
- Celebrate the successes noted in the report.
- Continue the improvement journey.
- Report to Cognia on your progress toward improvement.



Evaluator Roster

The Engagement Review is conducted by professionals with varied backgrounds and professional experiences. All evaluators complete Cognia training and elect certification to ensure knowledge and understanding of the Cognia tools and processes. The following professional(s) served on the Engagement Review:

EVALUATOR NAME	BRIEF BIOGRAPHY
Rose Marie Bell Lead Evaluator	Rose Marie Bell has a distinguished career in education, serving in various capacities, including National Board-Certified teacher, mentor, trainer, and district administrator. She is currently a regional accreditation evaluator for Cognia, where she leverages her expertise to support school improvement and student achievement, with a strong focus on professional development and collaborative initiatives. She has been instrumental in fostering environments that promote educational excellence. Her extensive experience also includes serving as a Title I supervisor, where she managed and administered federal programs. In this role, she effectively collaborated with state and federal agencies, as well as public, private, and charter schools, to ensure continuous improvement and compliance with federal regulations.
Elaine Scott	



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